

Colorado Crop Progress

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Agricultural Summary: Colorado, once again, experienced below average precipitation levels last week with above average temperatures for this time of year. Windy and dry conditions produced additional dust storms on the Eastern Plains from ash left from a large wildfire that consumed over 20,000 acres of rangeland the previous week. Overall, mountain snowpack is 58 percent of average leaving irrigators concerned with a possible reduction in water deliveries this growing season. Farmers were allowed 6.4 days in the field for spring operations.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT					
	Very Short	Very Short Short Adeq		Surplus	
This Week	10	46	44	0	
Last Week	8	33	59	0	
Last Year	37	36	25	2	

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT					
	Very Short	hort Short Adequate		Surplus	
This Week	15	39	46	0	
Last Week	10	35	55	0	
Last Year	33	40	25	2	

Small Grains: The warm temperatures last week have pushed winter wheat progress ahead of the usual pace with 12 percent of the acreage jointed compared with 3 percent on average. The winter wheat was reported being pastured was at 2 percent last week. The crop was rated in mostly good to fair condition. Spring barley was 33 percent seeded by the end of the week compared with the 5-year average of 17 percent. Emergence was at 24 percent. Spring wheat was reported 29 percent seeded, ahead of the 5-year average of 11 percent with 8 percent emerged at week's end.

Row Crops: Onion growers reported 30 percent of the acreage planted, slightly ahead of schedule compared with 27 percent on average. The planting of summer

potatoes increased to 10 percent last week. Producers continued planting sugarbeets last week reaching 9 percent planted, ahead of the 5-year average of 5 percent.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

 Week ending April 1, 2012

 Very Poor Poor Poor
 Fair Good Excellent

 Winter Wheat
 Winter Wheat

 This Week
 4
 17
 38
 38
 3

 Last Year
 17
 30
 38
 15
 0

Pasture and Range: Pasture and range feed conditions deteriorated last week due to the dry and windy conditions and are now rated mostly fair to poor across the State. Twelve percent was rated good compared with 18 percent the previous week.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending April 1, 2012 Very Poor Fair Good Excel Poor -lent Pasture & Range-2012 17 28 43 12 0 19 42 Prev. Year - 2011 26 4 5-Year Avg.

Livestock: Sixty-seven percent of cows have calved since January 1st while 56 percent of the ewes have lambed during the same time frame. Death losses for cattle and sheep were average. However, concern is mounting for the health of cattle engulfed by the smoke plume from the range fires in the central eastern part of the State the previous week. Stored feed supplies were rated average to short for this time of year.

Spring 2012 Calving and Lambing				
	2012	5-Yr Avg.		
Cows Calved since Jan 1	67	63		
Ewes Lambed since Jan 1	56	53		

COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending April 1, 2012

	<u>1</u>			
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
Winter Wheat				1
Pastured	2	3	3	9
Jointed	12	5	0	3
Spring Barley				
Seeded	33	25	21	17
Emerged	24	12	7	3
Spring Wheat				
Seeded	29	22	11	11
Emerged	8	5	1	2
Dry Onions				
Planted	30	18	30	27
Sugarbeets				
Planted	9	2	2	5
Summer Potatoes				
Planted	10	5	2	1

COLORADO CONDITION RATINGS 1/

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	4	5	30	56	5

^{1/}Crop condition ratings pertain to emerged plants early in the growing season through plants remaining to be harvested late in the season.